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S E C R E T WNINTEL NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON

SERIAL: DIADIN 343-6D

SUBJ: SURINAME: SITUATION UPDATE.

DOI: 9 DEC 86 (AS OF 1805 EST)

TEXT: 1. [] THE ARMY HAS THE MOMENTUM AFTER
RETAKING ALBINA AND MOENGO. BUT THE REBELS HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR
TIES TO THE PRODEMOCRATIC EXILES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH POLITICAL
LEGITIMACY AND TO OVERCOME TACTICAL WEAKNESSES.

2. [] A SENIOR SURINAMESE MILITARY LEADER RECENTLY
REPORTED THAT THE ARMY REGAINED CONTROL OF THE ROAD FROM THE
CAPITAL TO ALBINA AND NOW HAS 300 TROOPS AT ALBINA AND 200 NEAR
MOENGO. MOREOVER, HE SAID THAT 100 MORE TROOPS ARE IN BROKOPONDO
DISTRICT AND WILL, TOGETHER WITH THOSE AT ALBINA AND MOENGO, MOVE
SOUTHEASTWARD DEEPER INTO REBEL TERRITORY. ATROCITIES SAID TO HAVE
BEEN COMMITTED BY A PURPORTED LIBYAN FORCE AIDING THE MILITARY WERE
MORE LIKELY CARRIED OUT BY SURINAMESE AMERINDIANS WHOM THE ARMY
EMPLOYED TO INFILTRATE AND KILL BUSH NEGROES, INCLUDING WOMEN AND
CHILDREN. THE OFFICIAL LIBYAN PRESENCE IN SURINAME IS LIMITED TO
14 OFFICIALS AND DEPENDENTS OF THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN THE
CAPITAL.

3. [] MEANWHILE, THE REBELS HAVE SOLIDIFIED TIES TO
MODERATE EXILE AND FORMER PRESIDENT CHIN A SEN, AND FORMER ARMY
OFFICER VAN REY, WHO IS NOW A TACTICAL ADVISER TO REBEL LEADER
BRUNSWIJK. A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN THE EXILES AND REBELS
ADDRESSED THE PROSPECT OF FORMING A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN
SURINAME.

4. [] COMMENT: THE EXILE-SPONSORED REBELLION IS IN
A CRUCIAL PHASE BECAUSE THE ARMY MAY NOW INTEND TO PRESS FORWARD
TOWARD THE REBEL BASES, NO DOUBT EMPLOYING THE RECENTLY PURCHASED
ARMED VENEZUELAN BELL 205 HELICOPTER. REGARDING THE REBELS, THE
ISSUE OF POLITICAL LEGITIMACY HAS BEEN STYMIED BY THEIR FAILURE TO
TAKE MOENGO OR ALBINA, ALTHOUGH OVERT TIES TO CHIN A SEN AND VAN
REY MAY HELP. THE AD HOC COMPOSITION OF THE 200- TO 300-MEMBER
REBEL BAND--BUSH NEGROES, EXILES, CRIMINALS, AND MERCENARIES--
APPARENTLY HAS DISSUADED POTENTIAL FOREIGN BENEFACTORS FROM
PROVIDING AID DESPITE CHIN A SEN'S PAST EFFORTS TO SOLICIT SUPPORT.
VAN REY IS PROBABLY A MORE CAPABLE TACTICIAN THAN BRUNSWIJK, AND
HIS VIOLENT BREAK FROM THE JUNTA IN 1980 OVER COMMANDER BOUTERSE'S
REFUSAL TO REESTABLISH A DEMOCRACY UNDERSCORES THE VALIDITY OF THE
FREQUENTLY STATED REBEL GOAL OF DEMOCRACY FOR SURINAME. HOW MUCH
THE NEW EXILE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ADVICE WILL HELP THE DEPLETED REBEL
FORCE IN THE FACE OF THE ARMY OFFENSIVE REMAINS UNCLEAR.

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